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## W. L. VINSON WILL REOPEN RICH MAGNOLIA AT ONCE

### Baker City Mining Plunger and Railroad Promoter Returns to is First Love in the Granite District.

W. L. Vinson has leased the Magnolia mine, with an option to purchase, and will reopen the property at once. Stamps will probably be dropping in ten days. The deal was closed some time ago, but was not given publicity until today.

Al P. Jones, one of the owners of the Magnolia, is now at the property, getting things in shape for immediate resumption. A crew of ten men is employed and this force will shortly be doubled. Some changes and improvements will be made in the mill. A Standard concentrator will be added to the present battery of two Wilfley tables and two vanners. When the contemplated changes are made, the ten stamps will be dropping for a test run on accumulated ore in the bins. Only a superficial attempt will be made to save the gold values by amalgamation. Course concentration will be the principal process, and the product will be shipped to the Sumpter smelter.

The Magnolia is located five miles northwest of Granite, near the summit of the divide between the north fork of the John Day river and Granite creek.

In 1899, W. L. Vinson, who at that time represented an English syndicate, bonded the Magnolia and erected a ten-stamp mill. Owing to the inability of the management to save a satisfactory percentage of assay values by amalgamation, the mine was shut down, the Vinson bond forfeited and the property in time reverted to its original owners, who are Al P. Jones and brother, of Sumpter; Port Conde, of Baker City, Grant Thornburg, of Granite, and the English syndicate that paid for the erection of the mill.

Since then a number of parties have secured short-time options on the Magnolia, but met with invariably poor success in financing the proposition.

Development consists of an adit level, 760 feet long, giving backs of

286 feet. Two upper tunnels aggregating 550 feet in length.

An examination made in 1900 by United States geological surveyors revealed the fact that the vein strikes northeasterly and shows from 3½ to fourteen feet of mixed quartz and slate. Two payshoots were encountered in tunnel No. 1, 190 and 140 feet long; in the intermediate level a 400-foot shoot has been uncovered. It is conservatively estimated that 30,000 tons of ore are in sight. The best ore is found in the lower tunnel. During the life of the original Vinson bond, 2,000 tons of ore were milled.

The country rock is a black argillite, or clay slate. On granite creek, below the mine, the slates are distinctly contact metamorphosed, indicating the proximity of the granite contact. The slates near the mine show distinct fissility, striking north thirty-five degrees and dipping sixty degrees southwest.

The problem which successive bondholders of the Magnolia have been called upon to solve, has been an efficacious ore treatment process. Cyanide has been tried with small success. Laboratory tests of the chlorination process have resulted unsatisfactorily. Direct amalgamation has proven capable of effecting a saving of only about forty per cent of crude ore assay values. Concentration under the original Vinson management resulted in a product of low grade—.84 ounces of gold and 1.38 ounces of silver. Tailings assayed high. The opinion prevails that the error of the old management was in attempting too close concentration. It is believed that a more uniform crushing and a coarse concentration will effect a satisfactory saving.

In 1899 W. L. Vinson was the heaviest operator in the camp. He handled the Magnolia, the Little Giant and Maiden's Dream mines, owned the Sumpter electric light plant, built the Sumpter waterworks and platted an addition to this town.

Things went wrong, the English syndicate contracted cold feet, he lost a good deal of money and removed to Baker City. There he cleaned up a neat sum on the Carrol B mine in Pleasant Valley, acquired the rich Emma mine, near the Virtue and has been producing bullion ever since. Recently he and J. W. Patterson, of Baker City, purchased the North Fork placers, near Granite, installed a sawmill to build a twelve-mile flume, and next spring will operate sixteen giants on rich ground. Mr. Vinson is also promoting a railroad from Baker City to Snake river, via Pine and Eagle valleys, and is meeting with success. He is reported to control unlimited capital.

The resumption of the old Magnolia is good news to the people of this whole camp. Coming on top of the announcement of the reopening of the Red Boy, it has created a spirit of boom to Granite district mines.

#### From Poverty to Wealth.

Penniless five years ago, after failing in the general merchandise business in Waterville, William H. Hilscher, commonly known as "Captain" Hilscher, has just refused an offer of \$40,000 for a practically undeveloped prospect in the Seven Devils mining district of Idaho. Furthermore, the former poverty stricken man declares that \$60,000 would not tempt him to sell his newly discovered property, which he believes will net him several times the sum offered. Five years ago Captain Hilscher left Waterville a bankrupt and started out to seek fortune anew. He drifted from one mining camp to another, and after prospecting through several districts in Idaho, located a claim in the Seven Devils, which he calls the Soldier Boy. The discovery was made about three months ago. According to General Manager Adams, of the Ladd Metals company, which operates the smelter at Lardore, the ore shows values of \$100 per ton, with forty per cent copper, twelve per cent gold and seven per cent silver. Captain Hilscher says the Ladd Metals company made him an offer of \$40,000 for his claim, on which the only development is a shaft fifteen feet in depth and some stripping of the ledge. He says the ledge is five feet in width and widens with depth.

#### Mining Ground for Timber Claim.

W. A. Lotspeich, who has mineral holdings in the Bear Gulch district, is in town today, to take steps to prevent an application for a timber claim from gobbling up his mining ground. He says there is no timber on the ground that is suitable for lumber, and if all of it were cut into

cordwood, it would not sell for \$200; but that he has uncovered mineral rock in place, and the showing is excellent. He has an extension of the Yankee Girl ledge. It is his opinion that the Bear Gulch district is the richest in eastern Oregon and will be the making of Sumpter, being right at its back door.

#### NEW MEMBER KILLEN-WARNER-STEWART ENGINEERING STAFF

A. F. Keer, until recently connected with the management of the California mine, in Cable Cove, has accepted a position as assistant engineer for the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, and entered upon his duties December 1. Mr. Keer is a graduate of the University of Minnesota school of mines, and to a thorough technical education has added two years of practical experience in underground work. His addition to the engineering staff of the Killen, Warner, Stewart company was brought about by Professor H. H. Nicholson, who has watched Mr. Keer's work in this camp, and whose pressure of work, handling as he does, the Standard, Morning, Oregon Monarch and half a dozen other mines in this camp, made the appointment of an assistant imperative necessary.

#### Gold Coin Officers Here.

Major T. H. Notan and A. F. Gasmiere, officers and directors of the Citizens' Consolidated Gold Mining company, operating the Gold Coin mine, on Powder river, four miles above Sumpter, arrived here on this morning's train. They were joined at Baker City by L. P. Ostlund, who came up from The Dalles to join them, and who accompanied them to Sumpter. The party will drive out to the mine either this afternoon or tomorrow to inspect the property and straighten out some legal matters. Messrs. Notan and Gasmiere will probably remain in Sumpter for a week or ten days.

#### Sale of Morris No. 2.

F. O. Bucknum and J. Win Wilson have sold Morris No. 2 mining claim, a property adjoining the Morris patented ground, to the Iowa-Oregon company. This is the company, of which Grant Thornburg, of Granite, is the resident representative, that took over some weeks since the Morris mine, a silver proposition and one of the earliest to be opened up in eastern Oregon, of which deal The Miner made extended mention at the time. Those who know and are competent to judge, say that the Morris No. 2 is a very valuable acquisition. The price is not known. Some cash has been paid.